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THIS WEEK'S NEWS FROM

Inside Washington

Ex-CIA Director Bush Says SALT II 'Unverifiable'

Former CIA director George Bush, who is also a Republican presidential contender, has come out foursquare against Jimmy Carter's strategic arms limitation treaty. Bush, who has proved himself to be a hardliner in foreign policy, recently asked rhetorically of his Orlando, Fla., audience—before his rival, Sen. Howard Baker had opposed SALT—whether the treaty was verifiable, guaranteed U.S. equality or even held the Soviets in check. Responded Bush: "The straight hard answer in every case... No!"

Aside from pointing out that the treaty permits the Soviets to keep more than 300 "very large ICBMs with seven times the power of our largest MIRVed missile, while we are permitted none of these remarkably destructive weapons," Bush stressed that the treaty was "unverifiable." As the ex-chief of the CIA, his remarks take on added weight.

There is only one question on the subject of verification, he said, "Can we catch the Soviets if they try to cheat? And again, the answer is ominous for the United States. The fact is that under this treaty, we are virtually unable to monitor whether the Soviets comply with its terms."

The Soviets, he said, "have flatly refused to permit on-site inspections to verify such compliance. Stansfield Turner, the current chief of the CIA, has testified in closed session before the Senate that it will take until 1984 to fully restore the intelligence capability that we had for monitoring Soviet missile tests and development, but that was lost when Iran went up in flames."

"Everyday, it seems, we learn how high a price we must pay for the loss of our close ties with Iran—whether it is in higher prices at the gas pump, long lines at the filling station, or an inability to keep a close eye on Soviet nuclear armament."

"When it comes to verification of SALT II, Jimmy Carter will ask us to trust the Soviets as he once asked us to trust him. But I should say to